

‘Bulldog’ Brigade renovates Abu-Gharib schools

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Slowly but surely, changes are being made in Abu-Gharib.

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion 70th Armor Regiment and the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, a reserve unit from Abilene, Texas assigned to the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, worked to renovate and repair several schools in the Abu-Gharib section of Baghdad.

Buildings that had no electricity, running water or windows prior to the arrival of U.S. soldiers, now have that entire basic infrastructure and plus fresh coats of paint on the exterior and interior walls.

Munitions no longer lay around in school yards and are no longer stored in classrooms. Soldiers removed the ordnance, making the facilities ready for the children's education.

Lt. Col. Lee Quintas, 2nd Bn. 70th Armor commander, presided over the re-opening ceremony recently of the Al-Thabat primary school. This school opening was the 13th school to be renovated by the battalion.

There are still three more to do before the unit's job is finished.

A team from the 490th, known as GS-3, oversaw the financing and supervision of the reconstruction project. They in-turn hired the Al-Saniaa Contracting Company, a local business, to perform the work that was needed on the building.

More than \$35,000 were used on the Al-Thabat school to get it back into proper condition.

"It was probably the worst school in the area. The place had pretty much been gutted," said Sgt. Edward Henderson, the project manager for the Al-Thabat School. "There was a lot of damage to the masonry and to the classrooms. And there were Iraqi fighting positions dug in the front of the school as well."



A pupil in the Al-Thabat School, located in the Abu-Gharib neighborhood is ready to begin a day's studies in the recently renovated facility. Soldiers from Task Force 1st Armored Division's 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment and the 490th Civil Affairs Bn, worked to repair the building and clear munitions. Courtesy photo.

Damage done by looters to the school after the fall of Baghdad left the soldiers facing a huge task, he said.

Henderson said he and the contractor went to work on what Henderson called the "humbling experience" of rebuilding the school.

The results of their work can be seen in a facility that is ready to serve the children of Abu-Gharib. Teachers have a facility where they can work: a clean, safe and structurally sound building.

"The majority of the teachers and students were pleased that we came in and fixed the school," Henderson said. "There was a real positive attitude about it from the school's head mistress and the teachers. The kids would come up and thank us for what we were doing."

NEWS

U.S. Commander Escapes Injury in Attack

FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP) - Insurgents launched an attack Thursday on an Iraqi civil defense outpost visited by Gen. John Abizaid, commander of all U.S. forces in the Middle East. Abizaid and his party escaped injury in the gun battle. J

Just moments after a convoy carrying Abizaid and his party pulled inside the cinderblock walls at the headquarters of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps in this city west of Baghdad, an explosion rang out. Seconds later, two more explosions were heard near the rear of the compound, and U.S. soldiers responded with a barrage of rifle and machine gun fire.

9/11 Panel to Seek Testimony From Bush

MADISON, N.J. (AP) - The federal commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks will soon ask President Bush, former President Clinton and their vice presidents to testify in public about possible warnings they might have received from U.S. intelligence sources before the attacks.

"We need them to testify," former New Jersey Gov. Thomas H. Kean, the bipartisan commission's chairman, told The Record of Bergen County in a story published Thursday. He said the panel would issue formal invitations within the next few weeks, although he conceded that all four men would probably decline to be questioned at a public forum.

Bush Promotes Job Creation at Pa. School

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) - Creating jobs for unemployed Americans on U.S. soil is a top priority, President Bush said Thursday as debate simmered in Washington over his economic adviser's description of the loss of U.S. jobs to overseas companies as "just a new way of doing international trade."

"There are still some people looking for work because of the recession," Bush told a crowd at Central Dauphin High School in central Pennsylvania, the nation's fifth-largest electoral prize, and one that he lost in 2000. "There are people looking for work because jobs have gone overseas, and we need to act in this country."

Feds Charge Four in Steroids Scheme

WASHINGTON (AP) - The personal trainer of baseball slugger Barry Bonds, a track coach and top executives of a San Francisco-area nutritional supplements lab were charged Thursday with running an illegal drug distribution operation.

The 42-count federal indictment returned by a grand jury in San Francisco and obtained by The Associated Press alleges the scheme provided anabolic steroids, human growth hormone, erythropoietin and other drugs to Major League Baseball and National Football League players, as well as elite track and field stars.

In other news...

Web Site Shows British Accent Development

LONDON (AP) -- Britain is changing its toon.

Recordings of voices from the 1950s, the 1980s and 1990s on a new Web site show that older pronunciations like "toon" for town and "coo" for cow are fading, replaced with more standard forms, officials say.

But Jonathan Robinson, curator of English Accents and Dialects at the British Library Sound Archive, which runs the Collect Britain site, said regional accents are still strong.

"Contrary to popular belief, there is still an incredible amount of regional diversity and the recordings on this Web site illustrate elements both of continuity and of change," he said.

Robinson said fans of the Newcastle United soccer team in northeast England still refer to their club as "the Toon" - "but often it is used jocularly rather than in normal speech."

The use of "toon" - which once spread as far south as Yorkshire - does survive in some of the broader Newcastle accents and in some Scottish pronunciations, he said.

Among other major changes has been the "virtual disappearance" of the Northumbrian burr, the way some residents of northeast England have of pronouncing an initial "r" sound at back of the throat, as in French, rather than the front.

Robinson said education, along with greater social and geographical mobility, have led to the changes.

The site features more than 11 hours of interviews and explanation of older words and phrases that have fallen out of use, including "scrat" (to scratch), "gulley" (butcher's knife), "provand" (fodder) and "clout" (cloth).

The recordings, described as a "treasure trove of local and social history" by the British Library, are useful for linguists and actors perfecting their accents for a role.

The earlier recordings were taken of rural workers for the Survey of English Dialects, by Leeds University; the later ones were recorded by the British Broadcasting Corp. in 1998 and 1999.

The site, launched on Feb. 6, contains recordings of Northern English accents. The rest of the country will be included by August.

Thought for the day...

Liberty

Conquering any difficulty always gives one a secret joy, for it means push back a boundary-line and adding to one's liberty.

--Henri Frederic Amiel

Today in History...

February 13, 1945: DRESDEN DEVASTATED:

(Historychannel.com) On the evening of February 13, 1945, the most controversial episode in the Allied air war against Germany begins as hundreds of British bombers loaded with incendiaries and high-explosive bombs descend on Dresden, a historic city located in eastern Germany. Dresden was neither a war production city nor a major industrial center, and before the massive air raid of February 1945 it had not suffered a major Allied attack. By February 15, the city was a smoldering ruin and an unknown number of civilians--somewhere between 35,000 and 135,000--were dead.

By February 1945, the jaws of the Allied vise were closing shut on Nazi Germany. In the west, Nazi leader Adolf Hitler's desperate counteroffensive against the Allies in Belgium's Ardennes forest had ended in total failure. In the east, the Red Army had captured East Prussia and reached the Oder River--less than 50 miles from Berlin. The once-proud Luftwaffe was a skeleton of an air fleet, and the Allies ruled the skies over Europe, dropping thousands of tons of bombs on Germany every day.

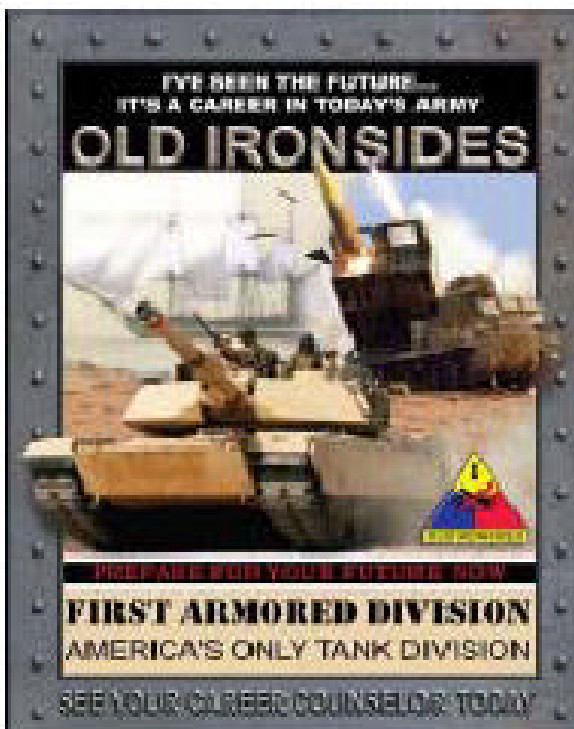
From February 4 to February 11, the "Big Three" Allied leaders--U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin--met at Yalta in the USSR and compromised on their visions of the postwar world. Other than deciding on what German territory would be conquered by which power, little time was given to military considerations in the war against the Third Reich. Churchill and Roosevelt, however, did promise Stalin to continue their bombing campaign against eastern Germany in preparation for the advancing Soviet forces.

An important aspect of the Allied air war against Germany involved what is known as "area" or "saturation" bombing. In area bombing, all enemy industry--not just war munitions--is targeted, and civilian portions of cities are obliterated along with troop areas. Before the advent of the atomic bomb, cities were most effectively destroyed through the use of incendiary bombs that caused unnaturally fierce fires in the enemy cities. Such attacks, Allied command reasoned, would ravage the German economy, break the morale of the German people, and force an early surrender.

Germany was the first to employ area bombing tactics during its assault on Poland in September 1939. In 1940, during the Battle of Britain, the Luftwaffe failed to bring Britain to its knees by targeting London and other heavily populated areas with area bombing attacks. Stung but unbowed, the RAF avenged the bombings of London and Coventry in 1942 when it launched the first of many saturation bombing attacks against Germany. In 1944, Adolf Hitler named the world's first long-range offensive missile V-1, after *Vergeltung*, the German word for "vengeance" and an expression of his desire to repay Britain for its devastating bombardment of Germany.

The Allies never overtly admitted that they were engaged in saturation bombing; specific military targets were announced in relation to every attack. It was but a veneer, however, and few mourned the destruction of German cities that built the weapons and bred the soldiers that by 1945 had killed more than 10 million Allied soldiers and even more civilians. The firebombing of Dresden would prove the exception to this rule.

Before World War II, Dresden was called "the Florence of the Elbe" and was regarded as one of the world's most beautiful cities for its architecture and museums. Although no German city remained isolated from Hitler's war machine, Dresden's contribution to the war effort was minimal compared with other German cities. In February 1945, refugees fleeing the Russian advance in the east took refuge there. As Hitler had thrown much of his surviving forces into a defense of Berlin in the north, city defenses were minimal, and the Russians would have had little trouble capturing Dresden. It seemed an unlikely target for a major Allied air attack.



Reenlistment bonus available until soldiers depart Theater

Currently, more than 1,400 soldiers have taken advantage of the deployed force reenlistment bonus since October. Soldiers must understand the bonus is no longer available once they redeploy to their home station.

The most frequently asked question from soldiers is "how long am I eligible for the reenlistment bonus?"

The answer is simple: once a soldier leaves Iraq, Afghanistan, or Kuwait, the lump sum tax-free bonus no longer exists.

As we begin to redeploy, our Career Counselors and key retention personnel will become much less accessible as they will be spread thin throughout Iraq, Kuwait, and Germany.

Soldiers eligible for this incentive are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity well in advance of their expected redeployment date. Soldiers should contact their Career Counselors who are standing by to assist our Iron Soldiers in continuing to serve proudly and "Stay Army."

For more information, contact your career counselor:

- Command Career Counselor: SGM James Jaranowski, 551-9405
- Retention Operations NCO: MSG Gary Schoolfield, 551-9405
- 1st Brigade: SFC Burke, Martyrs' Monument, 550-7027
- 2nd Brigade: SSG Gibson, Presidential Palace, 551-2010
- 4th Brigade: MSG Wolfe, 551-6620
- DIVARTY: SFC Hilton, 551-7030
- DIVENG: MSG Collier, 551-6131
- DISCOM SFC Casnave, 551-9405
- Division Troops: SFC Nagle, 551-9405

The Old Ironsides Report

February 13, 2004

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2004				As of: Thursday, February 12, 2004 3:26:34 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00		ESPNEWS	THE X-FILES : - LAZARUS	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	THE NEWSHOULR	00:00
00:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY		00:30
01:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - WCC: GONZAGA @ SAN FRANCISCO	HEADLINE NEWS	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS : - FLYING DEVILS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	01:00
01:25				GUIDING LIGHT		01:25
01:30		ESPNEWS			NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	01:30
02:00		HEADLINE NEWS	LAVA HUNTERS : - SHAPING OUR WORLD		LARRY KING LIVE	02:00
02:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		02:13
02:30		HEADLINE NEWS				02:30
03:00	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT	SESAME STREET	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - THE BODY	HOUSE OF MOUSE : - THE STOLEN CARTOONS	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	03:00
03:30	TOTALLY NASCAR			ALL GROWN UP : - COUP DEVILLE		03:30
04:00	SPORTSCENTER	TELETUBBIES : - IRISH DANCING	IRON CHEF : - MATSUBA CRAB/MICHIBA VS MASUO SUZUKI	KIM POSSIBLE (TV-7): - ALL THE NEWS	PAULA ZAHN NOW	04:00
04:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		MY LIFE AS A TEENAGE ROBOT (TV-7): - ATTACK OF THE 5 1/2 FOOT GEEK/DOOM WITH A VIEW		04:30
05:00	NASCAR NEXTEL CUP SERIES - GATORADE 125S, RACES 1 & 2	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	ROCKET POWER : - ROCKET REPAIRS	JEOPARDY!	NIGHTLINE	05:00
05:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	HEADLINE NEWS	ARMY HEALTHWATCH	05:30
05:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW				05:46
05:52				PACIFIC REPORT		05:52
06:00			THE SIMPSONS : - KRUSTY GETS BUSTED	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	06:00
06:30			THE COSBY SHOW : - HAPPY ANNIVERSARY	HEADLINE NEWS		06:30
06:35		GUIDING LIGHT				06:35
06:52				PACIFIC REPORT		06:52
07:00			CHARMED : - CAT HOUSE	THE SIMPSONS : - MY MOTHER THE CARJACKER	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	07:00
07:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL				07:17
07:30	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT			THAT 70'S SHOW : - BATTLE OF EVERMORE		07:30
08:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	THE X-FILES : - LAZARUS	SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS	PRIMETIME	08:00
08:30		JUDGE JUDY				08:30
09:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - PAC-10: USC @ ARIZONA	TODAY	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS : - FLYING DEVILS	24 : - DAY 2: 1:00 A.M.- 2:00 A.M.	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	09:00
10:00			LAVA HUNTERS : - SHAPING OUR WORLD	HEADLINE NEWS		10:00
10:22				PACIFIC REPORT		10:22
10:30				TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO		10:30
11:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - PAC-10: UCLA @ ARIZONA STATE	HOUSE OF MOUSE : - THE STOLEN CARTOONS	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - THE BODY		HEADLINE NEWS	11:00
11:30		ALL GROWN UP : - COUP DEVILLE		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	CHANNEL ONE	11:30
11:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	11:45
12:00		KIM POSSIBLE (TV-7): - ALL THE NEWS	IRON CHEF : - MATSUBA CRAB/MICHIBA VS MASUO SUZUKI		THE EARLY SHOW	12:00
12:30		MY LIFE AS A TEENAGE ROBOT (TV-7): - ATTACK OF THE 5 1/2 FOOT GEEK/DOOM WITH A VIEW		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		12:30
13:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	ROCKET POWER : - ROCKET REPAIRS	HIGH SCHOOL HIGH		13:00
13:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS			13:30
14:00	NHL - COLORADO AVALANCHE @ ST. LOUIS BLUES	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - KRUSTY GETS BUSTED		FOX NEWS LIVE	14:00
14:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW : - HAPPY ANNIVERSARY	CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND		14:30
15:00		THE SIMPSONS : - MY MOTHER THE CARJACKER	CHARMED : - CAT HOUSE		PRIMETIME	15:00
15:15						15:15
15:30		THAT 70'S SHOW : - BATTLE OF EVERMORE				15:30
16:00	ESPNEWS	SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS	THE X-FILES : - LAZARUS		FOX NEWS LIVE	16:00
16:30	ESPNEWS					16:30
17:00	PGA TOUR - BUICK INVITATIONAL: SECOND ROUND	24 : - DAY 2: 1:00 A.M.- 2:00 A.M.	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS : - FLYING DEVILS	TODAY	HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30					INSIDE POLITICS	17:30
18:00		HEADLINE NEWS	LAVA HUNTERS : - SHAPING OUR WORLD			18:00
18:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			ARMY HEALTHWATCH	18:30
19:00			BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - THE BODY	BOB THE BUILDER	LESTER HOLT LIVE	19:00
19:30		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN		FRANKLIN : - GEE WHIZ FRANKLIN/FRANKLIN CAN'T WAIT		19:30
20:00	SPORTSCENTER		IRON CHEF : - MATSUBA CRAB/MICHIBA VS MASUO SUZUKI	ROCKET POWER : - SUMMER BREEZY/ SAMMY'S FORTUNE	HEADLINE NEWS	20:00
20:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		JIMMY NEUTRON: BOY GENIUS : - THE EGG-PIRE STRIKES BACK (PT. 1)	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	20:30
21:00	NBA - ALL-STAR CELEBRITY GAME	HIGH SCHOOL HIGH	WHAT WOMEN WANT	YU-GI-OH! (TV-7): - KEITH'S MACHINATIONS (PT. 2)	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	21:00
21:30				THE PROUD FAMILY : - WEDDING BELL BLUES	CBS EVENING NEWS	21:30
22:00				TRADING SPACES FAMILY : - CONNECTICUT: LOOKOUT HILL ROAD	CNBC: THE NEWS	22:00
22:30		CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND			HEADLINE NEWS	22:30
23:00	FRIDAY NIGHT FIGHTS - NABF FLYWEIGHT TITLE BOUT: BRIAN VILORIA VS GILBERTO KEB-BAAS			NHL - NY ISLANDERS @ PHOENIX COYOTES	HANNITY & COLMES	23:00
23:15			TITANIC			23:15